



## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Jordan Bureau

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

Chief, Operations Group

DATE

November 1988

(STAT)

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1.

C/Ops

22 Dec

2.

3.

C/E&amp;PS

12/27

4.

~~DD/FBIS~~

5.

D/FBIS

6.

7.

~~PO/RA~~

8.

SA/CD

27 Dec

9.

10.

C/AS

12/28

11.

C/PERS

C/B&amp;F/AS

12.

DD/FBIS

3 Jan

13.

PO/RA

14.

C/AG

15.

Exec. Reg.

FBIS-4018-88  
7 December 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service  
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Jordan Bureau--November 1988

## I. GENERAL

A. Economic conditions continued to worsen in the kingdom during the month. The buying power of embassy and bureau salaries continued to slide, eliciting worried complaints by our employees and activity designed to explore remedies by the Economic section and Personnel in the embassy. Early in the month the government announced a year's ban on a long list of consumer commodities ranging from commercial and passenger vehicles to artificial fruits used for decoration. The government also raised customs fees on other commodities, imposed a 10% tax on all bills at good hotels and restaurants, levied a 3% tax on air tickets, and increased the airport departure tax for all categories of passengers. Construction costs are rising dramatically and the forecast is for higher rental costs for bureau staffers in the future.

B. The embassy revealed that the latest estimation of the time of completion for the new embassy is late July 1990 with occupation coming four months later in November. A group of interior designers from Sverdrup corporation, on contract to FBO, performed an inventory of our office furniture to be moved to the new building, along with a survey of our workspace needs there.

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Bureau personnel were confounded by the first monitored "text" of the PLO political statement issued in Algiers. The initial Baghdad PLO radio version contained no mention of the PLO's acceptance of UN Resolutions No. 242 and 338. Subsequent monitored versions of the statement -- including a later broadcast by Baghdad PLO radio -- contained this critical point.

2. The bureau performed an exhaustive recheck of Syrian media following Paris Radio Monte Carlo mention that Syrian media had curtailed their campaign against the regime of Husni Mubarak. No harsh criticism of the Egyptian government was observed.

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3. The bureau conducted a 4-day survey of Jerusalem radio Arabic. One new program is being added to our regular coverage.

B. Communications

The bureau successfully transmitted its first item in ASCII on 7 November, following an intense period of creative preparation by bureau engineer [redacted]. Aside from a few problems encountered in getting our material into USIA, the transition to ASCII has continued to go smoothly. In addition, the speed of transmission has been upgraded from 150 to 300 baud.

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III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Senior monitor [redacted] was promoted to FBN-11/2 on 6 November and is now functioning as a unit chief/monitor supervisor.

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2. Associate Editor [redacted] was promoted to FBN-11/2 effective 16 November.

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IV. VISITS

1. Chief Monitor [redacted] returned to the bureau from EOC travel to Austria, Hungary, and the United Kingdom on 10 November.

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2. Regional Engineer [redacted] from Nicosia paid a working visit to the bureau 13-17 November.

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3. Tom Zumwalt and Liz Clark from Sverdrup Corporation led a group of four interior designers to the bureau for a furniture inventory and workspace survey on 16 November, in connection with the forthcoming move to the new embassy.

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[redacted]

Jordan Bureau Chief